

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 15:1-20

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE”

LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

Part 6

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Consecration, Devotion, Dedication

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 15:1-20

Statement of Textual Summation and Theme

A Series on “Consecration to God”

STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE

LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

- 1.) Lesson 1 - Consecration: **what’s at stake**
- 2.) Lesson 2 - Consecration: **having ears to hear**
- 3.) Lesson 3 - Consecration: **being where He is**
- 4.) Lesson 4 - Consecration: **obeying Him**
- 5.) Lesson 5 - Consecration: The **“Self Control”** Exercise
- 6.) Lesson 6 - Consecration: The **“Be Wise”** Rule
- 7.) Lesson 7 – Consecration: The **“Power Play”** Move

Judges 15:1-9

After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, (May) it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into *her* room." But her father would not permit him to go in. :2 Her father said, "*I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.*" :3 And Samson said to them, "*This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!*" :4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned *the foxes* tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. :5 When he had set the torches on fire, he let *the foxes* go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards *and* olive groves. :6 Then the Philistines said, "*Who has done this?*" And they answered, "*Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.*" So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. :7 Samson said to them, "*Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease.*" :8 So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

Judges 15:9-13

Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. :10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." :11 Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "*Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?*" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." :12 But they said to him, "*We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines.*" Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves." :13 So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

Judges 15:14-20

When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. *Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.* :15 *He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.* :16 Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!" :17 And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi. :18 Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "*You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?*" :19 So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, (The Spring of the Caller) which is in Lehi to this day. :20 And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

BEING USED BY GOD

8.) Lesson 8 – Consecration: Being Used by God

8a.) How can God use me ?

we struggle with worthiness.

"could I ever be worthy enough for God to use me ?"

He Makes Us Worthy

it's the Lord that Declares us "Usable"

Abraham was a man fully aware of his unworthiness.

Genesis 18:27

Then Abraham answered the Lord and said, "*Indeed now, I who am as dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:*

When we're "converted" – "changed" to Christ, for Christ, there is first an internal conversion.

Examples - What a **Changed** Life Sounds Like...

Acts 9:3-6

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. :4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" :5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." :6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

1Corinthians 1:1

Paul, called *to be* an **apostle** of Jesus Christ **through** the will of God,

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an **apostle** (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ **and** God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus

bondservants δοῦλος

a willful, voluntary slave. a qualified slave, one who wills to be under the control of their master.

Jude 1

Jude, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

James 1:1

James, a **bondservant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 1:1

Paul, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an **apostle**, **separated** to the gospel of God

BEING USED BY GOD

8b.) Why would God use me ?

we struggle with **approval**

"What if I make a mistake or mess it up ?"

His Grace Covers Our "Attempts"

1Timothy 1:15-16

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. :16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Because He Knows What Makes Us Truly Happy

It's His **Delight** to Use Us...

He wants to do things with us. change things through us

Galatians 1:15-16

But when it **pleased** God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, **:16** to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

pleased εὐδοκέω

to think well of someone, to approve of them.
to be for someone, to encourage them onward

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of **peace** and not of evil, to give you a **future** and a **hope**.

Each of Us, In Our Lives, What's Going On Right Now ?

Romans 8:28-31

And we know that **all things work together for good** to those **who love God**, to those **who are the called** according to *His* purpose. **:29** For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **:30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. **:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

BEING USED BY GOD

8c.) Where would God use me ?

Where Are You - *in life?*

I'm in junior high, high school, college, at home,
in the workplace, retiring, retired...

we struggle with **insecurity.**

"Other's can do it better than I can ?"

But, there's not another person to take
your place - for you.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it's **the gift** of God, **:9** not of works, lest anyone should boast. **:10** For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** (in eternity past) that we should **walk in them**.

everywhere, on-call, 24/7/365

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

Not by What We Say - - But How We Live...

BEING USED BY GOD

8d.) When would God use me ?

we struggle with obedience.

“He desires to use me 24/7 - at any given moment ?”

At All Times IF...

If I’m willing / **If** my hands are clean / If my life’s open to Him

Psalm 24:3-5

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? :4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. :5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalm 51:1-3

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. :2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. :3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

Pastor Jack; “I’m willing to be used by God, but I seem to never get started.”

Isaiah 1:16-19

“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, :17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. :18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. :19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;

We Need to Come to the Altar of Sacrifice

let’s get washed / let’s get surrendered / let’s get ready / let’s get going

End of Study